REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Fuqua for the indicated allowability of Claims 15-18, and the indication that Claims 3, 4, 6 7 and 10-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By way of this Amendment, an Abstract of the Disclosure is presented which addresses the issues raised on page two of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In light of the indicated allowability of Claims 15-18, and the indication that Claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the only claims currently at issue are Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 19 and 20, with Claim 1 being the only independent claim.

The subject matter recited in independent Claim 1 is directed to a laminated glazing panel comprising two glass plies, a plastic ply and one or more light emitting diodes laminated between the glass plies, with the one or more light emitting diodes being mounted on a circuit board.

The Official Action sets forth a rejection of independent Claim 1 based on the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 6,361,867 to *Kishida et al.* in view of the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 5,193,895 to *Naruke et al.* That rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Kishida et al. discloses a laminated glass substrate structure used in liquid crystal displays. The laminated glass substrate structure includes a lower glass substrate 11 and an upper glass substrate 12 that are adhered to one another. The

upper glass substrate 12 is smaller in size than the lower glass substrate 11 so that a peripheral portion of the lower glass substrate 11 extends outwardly beyond the outer edge of the upper glass substrate 12 as illustrated in Figs. 3A-3D. In addition, *Kishida et al.* describes that a flexible print circuit board 24 is connected to one surface of the protruding edge of the lower glass substrate 11 as illustrated in Fig. 3B. This flexible print circuit board 24 is connected to the projecting portion of the lower glass substrate 11 by way of an anisotropic conductive film 27.

The claimed laminated glazing panel recited in independent Claim 1 differs from the laminated glass substrate structure disclosed in *Kishida et al.* in a number of respects. First, *Kishida et al.* does not disclose a plastic ply and one or more light emitting diodes which are laminated between the glass plies. Nor does *Kishida et al.* disclose light emitting diode(s) mounted on a circuit board.

The Official Action notes the disclosure in *Naruke et al.* of a plastic ply and a metal conductive layer, and suggests that this disclosure would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated glass substrate structure disclosed in *Kishida et al.* in a manner that would have resulted in the claimed laminated glazing panel recited in independent Claim 1.

Naruke et al. discloses a warning light that is adapted to be secured to a fitting face or side face C of a vehicle door B to notify drivers in following vehicles that the vehicle door B is open. The warning light includes, as illustrated in Fig. 18 of *Naruke et al.*, several light emitting elements 5 mounted on a flexible printed circuit board 6. The flexible printed circuit board 6 is covered with a light-transmissive elastic sheet 5. As discussed in connection with the earlier embodiments of the warning light

described in *Naruke et al.*, the light transmissive elastic sheet 55 serves to protect the light emitting elements 5 from water.

The disclosure in *Naruke et al.* of a particular construction for a vehicle door warning light would not have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the laminated glass substrate structure disclosed in *Kishida et al.* in the manner necessary to result in the claimed laminated glazing panel recited in independent Claim 1. *Naruke et al.* does not disclose laminating one or more light emitting diodes between two glass plies and certainly does not disclose laminating one or more circuit board mounted light emitting diodes between a pair of glass plies. Rather, *Naruke et al.* merely discloses a particular construction for a warning light applied to the fitting face or side face of a vehicle door for purposes of warning drivers in following vehicles that the vehicle door is open. Such a disclosure would not have motivated one to laminate one or more circuit board mounted light emitting diodes between the glass plies disclosed in *Kishida et al.* This is particularly so given that such a construction is unnecessary, and would serve no useful purpose, in the context of the liquid crystal display disclosed in *Kishida et al.*

The Official Action states that including a plastic ply and conductive layer in the liquid crystal display disclosed in *Kishida et al.* would have been obvious because the plastic ply would help secure the flexible circuit board and the conductive layer would allow power to be applied more efficiently. However, as explained above, the flexible print circuit board 24 disclosed in *Kishida et al.* is not laminated between the glass plies, but rather is secured to the surface of the protruding portion of one of the glass substrates 11. Thus, it has not been established that it would have been obvious to laminate the flexible circuit board 24

of *Kishida et al.* between the glass substrates of the liquid crystal display. Further, it has not been established why an ordinarily skilled artisan would find it useful or beneficial to laminate one or more light emitting diodes between the glass substrates of the liquid crystal display disclosed in *Kishida et al.* That *Naruke et al.* may disclose light emitting elements in a vehicle door warning light to warn other drivers that the vehicle door is open is not a teaching that would have motivated one to laminate light emitting elements between the two glass plies of *Kishida et al.'s* liquid crystal display.

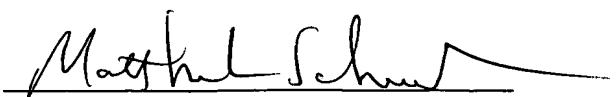
It is respectfully submitted that the hypothetical combination of the disclosures relied upon in the Official Action is based upon improper hindsight.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the claimed laminated glazing panel is patentably distinguishable over a combination of the disclosures in *Kishida et al.* and *Naruke et al.* Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: July 19, 2006 By: 

Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32,814

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620